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The Long Island FISHERMAN

THE ONLY WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

VOLUME 11, No. 6 FEBRUARY 26th, 1976

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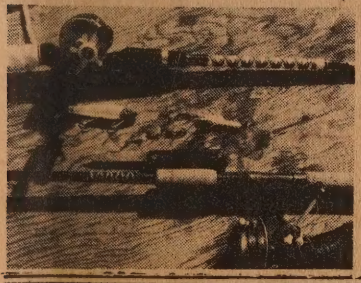

ABOUT THE COVER: March is almost upon us, so it is time to break out that tackle and clean it up for the coming season. Flounder are starting to show in all the bays, and it won't be long before the first bass and weakfish are taken.

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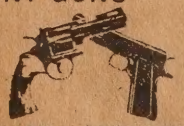

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BOATING CLASS

Flotilla 13-10 of the U.S.C.G. Auxiliary is offering the 7 lesson Boating Safety and Seamanship course at Sear's Roebuck, located at 195 North Broadway, Hicksville, New York. Registration by phone or in person at the Sporting Goods Department, GE3-0300 Ext. 3. Class will start March 2nd at 6:45 P.M. and runs for 7 consecutive weeks. This course is offered free of tuition (Text and material cost is approximately $6.50)

Subjects covered in the lessons will include: Safe Boating Habits, Sailors Language, Boat Handling, Legal Requirements, Rules of the Road, Aid to Navigation, Charts and Compass, and Marine Engines.

Should further information be required the Public Education Officer, Mary Jane Beatty may be contacted at 742-3122.

Flotilla 13-10 will also offer young seamanship to Young Boatmans Safety Course starting Saturday, March 20th, and will run for 4 consecutive Saturdays, from 10 A.M. to 12 noon. Registration at Sears Sporting Goods. This course is required by law for all youngsters between ages 10 to 16. All course materials needed is free.

COURSE IN NORTHPORT

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary will offer a free twelve-lesson course in Boating Safety and Seamanship starting on March 1st which is a Monday at the Northport Jr. High School, Laurel Avenue, Northport from 8 to 10 P.M. Registration will start at 7:30 that eve.

Subjects will include boat handling, charts and compass, weather, marine engines, legal requirements, safe sailboat and motorboat operation. A certificate of Completion will be awarded for successful completion of the course. The course is free to the public with a nominal charge for course materials. Families are encouraged to attend together.

Further information may be obtained by calling (516) 676-8888 or 261-7989.

EXPERTS TO GIVE SPRING FISHING CLINICS ON LONG ISLAND

Teaneck, N.J., February 19th, 1976—The Garcia Corporation and Herman's Sporting Goods will sponsor free saltwater fishing clinics on Wednesday March 3rd and Wednesday March 10th to be held from 8-10 P.M. at the Brotherhood of Electrical Brothers, 41 Pinelawn Road, Melville, New York.

The clinics are run on a first come, first-served basis to the first 1,000 persons registering for each session at any Herman's store on Long Island.

The main topics for the March 3rd clinic are small boat trolling and jigging for striped bass and bluefish presented by Pete Barrett, Outdoor Writer for the Long Island Fisherman. Additionaly, Outdoor Writer, Gerry Gomber will give a slide presentation on electronic graph recorders and depth finders.

The March 10th saltwater clinic will feature surfcasting, party boat and jetty fishing with emphasis on striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, fluke and flounder fishing. Al Ristori, Director of Field Testing for The Garcia Corporation will present this program.

Each session will have a slide presentation, a half hour movie plus door prizes, free literature and a full display of 1976 Garcia Tackle.

DOC MULLER SLIDE SHOW AT N. BROOKHAVEN CLUB

The next meeting of the North Brookhaven Sport Fishermen's Club will take place on Monday Night, March 8th. The 7:00 P.M. meeting, which will be held in the Mt. Sinai Community House in Mt. Sinai; located on North Country Road, will feature as the guest speaker, Dr. Muller of The Long island Fisherman Magazine.

Dr. Muller will show a color slide presentation on weakfishing in Peconic Bay. That will be followed by a question and answer period. Weakfish have returned to Long Island waters in larger numbers during the past few years, after staying away for many years. Most anglers have never fished for this species before, and the slide show and lecture Dr. Muller will give, should make it an easy job for Long Island fishermen to fill up the bag this season.

Admission is free, and coffee will be served. Island fishermen who are seeking more information on the N.B.S.F.C. can call these numbers: 588-6080 in the Lake Ronkonkoma area and 744-6260 in the Rocky Point area.

The North Brookhaven Sport Fishermens Club was founded in 1969, and received its charter from the state of New York in 1970. It is incorporated as a non-profit club association, and has members from suffolk, Nassau and Queens.

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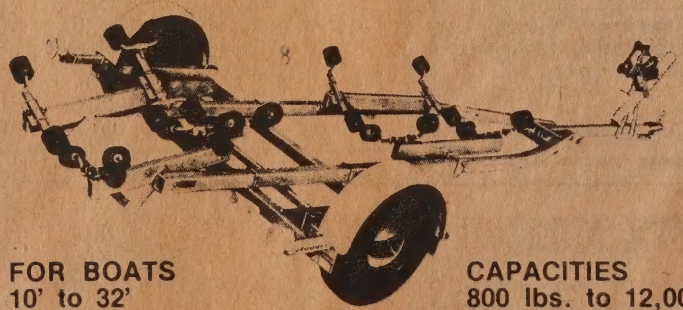

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News Releases

FISHERMEN'S EFFORTS PAY OFF 200 MILE LIMIT ASSURED IN 1977!

When the Emergency Committee to Save America's Marine Resources was formed four years ago there was much skepticism about the possibility of enacting 200 mile fisheries legislation, even among the supporters of the cause. Yet, the Senate's action in passing S 961 last week has cleared the way for a 200 mile limit no later than July 1, 1977.

Originally, the Senate 200 mile bill had called for the same July 1, 1976 effective date as does the House bill, HR 200. However, the bill's major sponsors, Senator Warren Magnuson (D-Wash.) and Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), understood that the President would veto the bill if it became effective this year. Therefore, Senator Stevens presented an amendment which retained the July 1 effective date but provided that it wouldn't be enforced until Jan.1, 1977. Though the bill could have passed easily in that fashion, the threat of a veto still hung over the legislators and supporters barely had the 2/3 majority necessary to overcome a veto. This set the stage for a last minute amendment by Senator Strom Thurmond (R-S. C.), postponing the enforcement date to July 1, 1977 in order to give the Law of the Sea Conference two more chances to work out an internationally accepted solution. Since Senator Thurmond specified that the President would sign the bill with that amendment, it passed by a 93-2 margin. The final vote on S 961 was an overwhelming 77-19 in favor.

Opponents of the measure introduced an amendment which purported to approach the problem in another fashion but was actually a naked attempt to "gut" the legislation and allow continued foreign destruction of American Fisheries. While that attempt was soundly beaten, die-hard anti-conservationists such as Mike Gravel (D-Alaska); Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.); Alan Cranston (D-Ca.); John Tunney (D-Ca.); and Robert Griffin (R-Mich.) continued to oppose S 961 to the end. In view of the intense lobbying effort directed against this legislation by both State and Defense Departments, plus the wealthy high seas tuna and shrimp industries, it's a miracle that the relatively unorganized fishermen and conservationists were able to achieve this victory. Emergency Committee Chairman, Allan J. Ristori noted "while it is gratifying to taste success after years of effort, it's even more satisfying to know that the triumpt belongs to the concerned citizens who took the time to write their congressmen. Big money and vested interests can carry the day when the citizenry can be lulled into thinking that they, as individuals, have no clout. However, the 200 mile fisheries jurisdiction battle proved the value of citizen participation in the political process."

It's expected that a Senate-House conference committee will agree on terms similar to those in S 961, which call for the new Regional Management Council to be set up after July 1 this year, in order to have plans ready to implement conservation measures on July 1, 1977—provided that there is no agreement in the Law of the Sea Conference. Conservationists will have to carefully monitor appointments to the councils in order to assure a new conservation ethic.

A new Emergency Committee newsletter is being prepared. It will require a newsletter to thank even a few of the thousands who have labored in the cause. However, in addition to Senators Magnuson and Stevens, special mention should be made of Representative Norman Lent (R-N.Y.), sponsor of the Committee's first 200 mile bill four years ago; Representative Robert Leggett (D-Ca.), chairman of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee subcommittee that moved HR 200 rapidly through the House; Rep. Gerry Studds (D-Mass.), sponsor of that legislation; and Rep. Edwin Forsythe (r-N.J.), ranking Republican on the subcommittee and one of the sportsman's best friends in congress. For additional info contact Allan J. Ristori, ECSAMR, 110 Charlotte Pl., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 07632. Phone (201) 569-9511-12.

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CROSSING THE BAR *with Don Vetter*

INSURANCE—
Part Two

In the last column we discussed three ways of insuring your boat: the first was the standard homeowner's or renter's personal property insurance policy, which due to its severe limitations may be dismissed for all practical purposes as a viable means of keeping adequate coverage in effect on your boat. The second alternative was the special watercraft endorsement to the above mentioned homeowner's policy. This was shown to provide a considerable modicum of additional coverage to the extent of its being considered adequate in a variety of situations, but costing in additional premiums as much as the preferable separate policy geared specifically to marine needs.

Of the marine insurance policies the "named risk" variety came off as a poor choice due to its lack of provision for the unexpected. Today we will examine the ultimate in marine insurance—the all risk policy.

An all-risk policy is not quite what it's name implies though it provides the most complete coverage available in the marine insurance field. It will protect your boat against physical damage or complete loss from almost any external cause with the following exceptions: wear and tear, marring and scratching, corrosion, machinery breakdown, Depreciation, and extreme temperatures. The cardinal point is the fact that this coverage will remain in effect whether your boat is sitting in your garage, being trailered to the launch ramp or under way in the open sea.

Last time around we pointed out the fact that there is a distinction between the so-called "outboard" policy and the more comprehensive "yacht" policy. Outboard policies list separately your boat, motor and equipment and assigning each an actual cash value. Most have a deductible clause with the amount written in: $50, $100, $250 or whatever. The amount of the deductible is the amount of money that you must pay on any claim, the insurance company paying the rest, the same as deductible collision insurance on any automobile. There are some companies that will write policies without the deductible clause though a majority will not. In any case you pay for it on a sliding scale; the greater the deductible amount the lower your premiums—a $50 deductible policy costs far more than a $250 deductible policy, for example.

The liability coverage provided under outboard policies varies widely from company to company, some underwriters including a small amount of liability coverage for damage to the property of others as an integral part of your own hull insurance, but providing no coverage for bodily injury or death. The reasoning behind the policies of this type is that liability insurance can be provided by the comprehensive personal liability section of your separate homeowner's policy.

The majority of well written outboard policies provide a separate section providing complete liability insurance, rather than relying on the liability section of another insurance policy as those mentioned above. The legal liability insurance section of the policy is called protection and indemnity insurance, and covers property damage, personal injury and death arising out of a boating accident for which you are held to be legally responsible. It is possible to buy hull insurance only if you have personal liability insurance in effect under another policy, but be sure the coverage is adequate. Marine liability insurance applies to the boat rather than the owner, so that any member of your family or just about any authorized person may operate your craft and the insurance is still in effect.

The average outboard liability insurance coverages ranges from $25,000 to $300,000. As an example, if the amount written into the policy reads: $100/300,000, the maximum amount which will be paid out to any one claimant in an accident is $100,000 and $300,000 is the maximum amount the company will pay out to settle all claims arising out of a single accident.

Medical payment insurance is also generally provided under the policies written by major companies. This provides coverage for medical payments to guests on your boat resulting from accidents where you are NOT at fault. Many of these policies also provide similar coverage to you if you are hurt under similar circumstances. Check your policy to ascertain what it does and does not cover. The greater the total liability insurance, the greater the amount provided for medical coverage: a $25,000 policy may provide $500 for medical payments while a $300,000 policy may provide $2000 for these medical payments.

Even the all-risk policy is subject to a number of exclusions and limitations. For one thing, racing will invalidate your insurance; some underwriters say any race or speed test will void your policy, while others specify organized racing. Waterskiing may cut a $300,000 policy to $10,000 or $20,000. Chartering your boat or carrying passengers for hire may void the insurance. The area in which you can use the boat will probably be specified, sometimes quite definitely and sometimes couched in such vague terms as "coastwise"—reasonable prudence is the key in such cases; it would not be considered very prudent to take your outboard on a cruise to the Bahamas, for example. Your trailering distance may also be limited, perhaps to 300 miles, though you can usually get a temporary suspension in writing from your underwriter for a trip to Florida, for example. Sometimes this may be done as a courtesy, or on the other hand there may be a charge of say $10 or $15.

The cost of insurance is of primary importance to the boatowner. Premiums for hull and liability insurance are listed separately. There are two methods insurance companies figure the cost of premium for hull insurance: one is a flat rate based on boat size and horsepower, the other is a percentage of the total value of hull, motor, trailer, and equipment. The larger the motor, the higher the premium.

Where you do most of your boating is another factor the insurance company will take into account; some waters are considered more hazardous or have a higher percentage of reported accidents than do others. Many large metropolitan areas have a higher incidence of boat thefts which also influences the amount of premium you have to pay; there is one company which charges $156 for a $25 deductible policy on a 17 foot boat and motor in the New York City area, and only $96 for the same policy on most or the rest of Long island. As a general rule, you will pay between 2% and 5% of the value of your rig in annual premiums. You may find significant rate differences among various companies for the same coverage in the same area as each company uses its own actuarial data in computing premium cost, so it may pay you to shop around.

The premium cost for liability insurance goes up in direct proportion to

(Continued on page 17.)

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

HOOKS

When I was a kid in Brooklyn, I was brought up among real old-time bottom fishermen. These veteran anglers, with which our neighborhood abounded, were past-masters at the art of bottom fishing. Why these men put up with a twelve year old kid continuously tagging after them, and no doubt driving them crazy with innumerable questions, I don't know. But they did, and it's something for which I'm eternally grateful.

Some of these old timers had their preferences in bottom fish, true, but I remember they all had one thing in common: a fanatical interest in hooks, an interest encompassing every phase of that thin piece of steel. I spent hours listening to discussions as to the relative merits of one hook over another. This rubbed off on me to such an extent that, I too, became fanatical.

The next time you hold a fishhook in your hand, look it over with more than casual interest. What do you see? A thin, curved piece of metal, right? Wrong. What you are looking at is 5000 years of civilization!

The hook you are holding is not different from those manufactured since 3000 years BC. There hasn't been much overall improvement in fish hooks, except to manufacture them by machine instead of painstaking hand craftsmanship. After all, it's pretty difficult to improve on perfection.

We've all seen pictures of old Oog squatting in front of his cave. His sloping forehead and Neanderthal look doesn't give the impression of much brains behind those dull eyes. But Oog was a pretty smart cookie in his way.

It didn't take him long to discover he needed more than a pair of hairy arms to catch fish; which no doubt was a lot safer and surer than chasing some fleet-footed prey that might reverse the chase at any moment and become victor instead of victim.

So Oog got that brain working and came up with the gorge, which was simply a small, thin piece of wood or stone, tapered to a point at both ends. To its center was attached a strip of sinew, or perhaps braided hair. This was imbedded in a piece of meat, and when swallowed by the fish the line was pulled tightly, causing the gorge to lodge crossways in the fish's gullet.

And...Eureka! We had our first fisherman!

Gradually, as the centuries passed, hooks made of bone, antlers, and similar materials took the place of the gorge. But not until the advancement of civilization brought us to the Iron and Bronze ages did we actually have our first real fishhook, much like the ones we use today.

Historians say the first fishhooks were made in China and brought to Germany by overland travelers. The process was brought to London where the needle-making trade was a big thing, and it was then a simple procedure to convert to fishhook manufacture.

But bubonic plaque, plus great fires and other assorted ills, all but wiped out everything in London, including fishhook manufacturing. Those fortunate to escape went to safer countries in Europe and Asia, and began anew. Today, O. Mustad and Son of Oslo, Norway leads the world in hook manufacturing, with over 50,000 types of hooks for world trade.

But enough of fishhook history, let's get down to the hooks we use today.

No one hook is satisfactory for all fish, which is too bad because things could be a lot simpler for all fishermen. Probably more regular shanked hooks are used by fishermen than those with longer shanks, but this selection is governed by the fish sought, not by any particular choice of the fisherman.

For example, were you to use one of these regular-shanked hooks on bluefish you'd land very few. Those strong, razor-sharp teeth can go through leader material in a flash, so what's needed here is a long-shanked hook. The fisherman can get by in an emergency by using a piano wire leader on short shanked hook of appropriate size, but for all general purposes we can say a long-shanked hook should be used on fish having sharp teeth.

But there are exceptions. For example: when winter flounder fishing, the hook used is the long-shank Chestertown. Not because the flounder has sharp teeth; actually as far as fishermen are concerned, you might say flounders are toothless. But flounders have the annoying habit of swallowing a hook deeply and the longer shank makes removal easier. Which all boils down to the fact that there's more to a fishhook than meets the eye.

There are many types of hooks that can be used in salt water. The ones listed below are important to bottom fishermen.

SPROAT: This is an old-timer and most fishermen have used it at one time or another. Good for soft-mouthed fish from flounders to cod, it is strong and penetrates quickly. The point tends to be soft and should be touched up occasionally, especially after snagging hard bottom obstructions.

ABERDEEN: Primarily a live bait hook because of its thin wire. Better for fresh water than salt. I find these hooks too soft of temper for my taste and seldom use them.

CARLISLE: This is the one to be used for fluke fishing. It's thin enough to use with live killies, yet strong enough to hold any fluke you may encounter.

LIMERICK: This is used the world over by commercial fishermen, and it's the one I occasionally use for cod. I find it's only drawback is that it takes a stiff rod to drive it home, but once sunk, it stays put.

CHESTERTOWN: This is the winter flounder fisherman's favorite hook. Also good for eels, or any small fish with the annoying habit of deeply inhaling the hook. Not recommended for big fish, even in its larger sizes, although I did catch a good-sized striper on one while flounder fishing.

CLAW or BEAK: An extremely sharp, strong hook, designed for quick-biting fish. Will also work well on such fish as the leather-jawed cod. Good for blackfish too.

O'SHAGNESSY: A good hook, but when used for heavy fish, it needs a bit of doing to sink and hold firmly. I find this hook is apt to pull free under strain.

VIRGINIA: This is the blackfisherman's hook. Its sharp offset point makes for easy penetration. Can also be used for sea bass and porgies with good results.

There are other styles, of course, but these are the ones used mostly by the bottom fisherman. If the fisherman finds any of these shorter shanked hooks to be particularly suitable for his type of fishing, and he wishes to experiment a bit, they are also available in extra-long shanks. Get in touch with Ed. W. Simon Co. Inc., 505 Marlboro Road, Woodridge, New Jersey 07075, who are sales representatives for O. Mustad and Son, and ask for their catalog. In fact, this is a good idea for any hook-conscious fisherman. I have had one for years and I wouldn't part with it.

(Continued on page 15.)

What Comes After Retirement?

by Ed Haring

Jim stared in bewilderment at the electronic timepiece bestowed on him by the beaming Assistant Vice President. He tried to smile as his fellow workers applauded. He fumbled with the buttons and near panic overtook him. No matter which button he pressed the same message was displayed...Mandatatory Retirement Has Come—Now What? Somehow it crept up on him while he was transporting the problems of the firm to and from the office in his bulging attache case and worse yet a head crammed with many more. It was a minor miracle that he survived this rigorous schedule and the many social events that consumed what remained of the waking and often should-be sleeping hours. Yet the villainous green figures did not lie...the guarantee said they would not for one full year.

Needless to say, Jim had no time for hobbies. To avert the horrors of the transition, his thoughtful spouse had collected all the brochures American Express and Cook's had to offer. The escape route was quickly and methodically planned. For two full weeks they chased fast moving guides over the face of Europe and they systematically began to drive one another up opposite walls.

I was patching the patches on my waders when Jim leaned over the fence and announced that he had decided to take up surf casting. It looked minimal. The exercise would be just the thing he needed. Of course, the better half had given her whole-hearted approval. Perhaps I could give him a few pointers in getting started. Had he been twenty years younger I would have been every bit as enthusiastic as he seemed to be, but being realistic there were caution signs that had to be observed. Warning him that a prudent man always dips his toes in the water before making a headlong plunge, I invited him to accompany a few of us on an expedition before arriving at a final decision. Almost reluctantly he agreed but it was obvious that he would have preferred taking an active part.

He appeared promptly at the appointed hour clad in an outfit befitting a combination of full admiral and leader of a safari. A huge picnic hamper full of sandwiches and two styrofoam containers with six packs rounded out the picture. On the way I stopped at a tackle shop to pick up a few lures and Jim gazed around in wonderment fondling the longest and heaviest surf rods in stock. The array of lures fascinated him more than designers had dared to hope they would the fish. Somewhere in the process the computers in his mind began to function and the idea of minimal expense faded. I explained that the cost of the basic tackle was a small downpayment, somewhat akin to a marriage license. The frills and gadgets kept the wallet flatter than an anemic sand dab.

Once on the beach Jim was quick to learn why the regulars did not carry generous loads of deli delights. The trek from the parking field to the surf brought forth enough perspiration to soak through his impressive attire. He began to lag even though we made numerous stops for exploratory casts. Seating himself on a crate he decided to lighten his burden. Explaining that we wanted to catch a certain stage of the tide at the pocket, he urged us on, promising to catch up. I must admit that I savored every morsel of the corned beef on rye that he forced on me. He failed to reach the pocket...so did the fish. We knew the rations were more than adequate to sustain him and we plodded back finding him snoozing comfortably where we parted. Not a crumb or full can of suds remained. The litter was carefully packed for the journey to a trash basket. He seemed disturbed that with all the tackle we employed and the years of experience behind us not one striper was taken.

Now was the time to play the trump card. On dropping him off, I presented him with a stack of back issues of LIF and suggested he look through them pointing out that fishing had as many facets as music. There is opera and hard rock. There is also big game fishing and that enjoyed on piers and bridges. In between lie many variations...maybe even one he and the little lady could enjoy together. He scoffed at this as we parted.

I did not see anything of my neighbors until late August. I was returning home from one of the fishless forays I was becoming accustomed to. The odor of broiling fish was wafted to me on the light breeze from a real old time clam bake going on next door. Jim and Lil hailed me and insisted I join in the festivities. I was introduced to the many friends they had made on party boats and fishing piers during the season. Lil insisted that I had put them on the right track and made their summer the best ever. She had taken a 13 lb. fluke and led their club for top honors.

Jim suggested that I try with them sometime and I countered that it was a little late to teach an old dog new tricks. Not so. Just re-read my LIFs....I too would find the tackle shops and crews on the boats only to eager to help make the adjustment. He smiled, proudly pressed one of the buttons on his timepiece and proclaimed: "It is never too late." This story is true. Only the names have been changed to protect the guilty. Fortunately it has a happy ending but why wait? Make it a point to explore the sport before watch day rolls around. The kids will enjoy it too, if you give them the chance. Remember that the Lord chose fishermen above all others for disciples and will probably forgive you for some of the yarns you spun.

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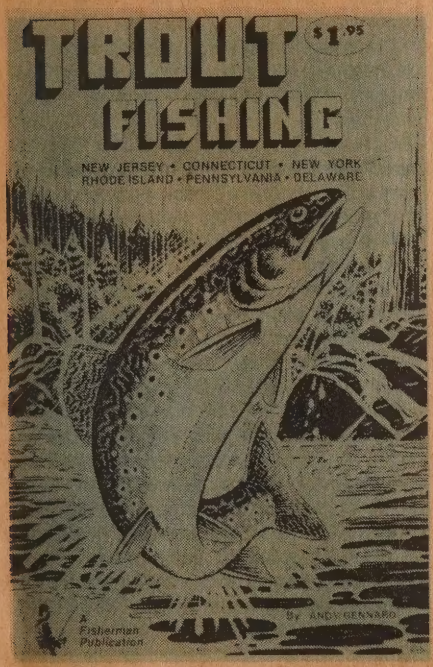

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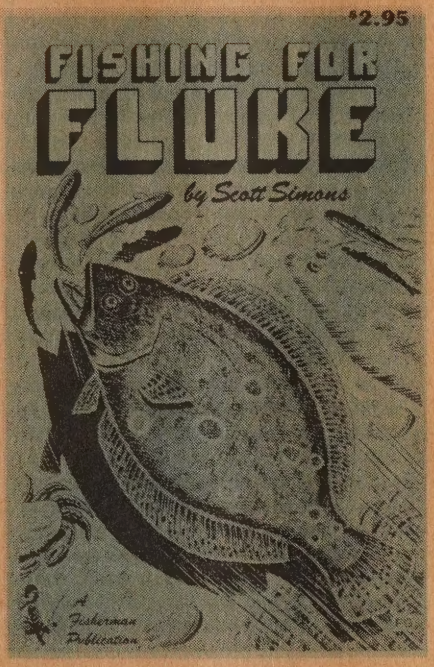

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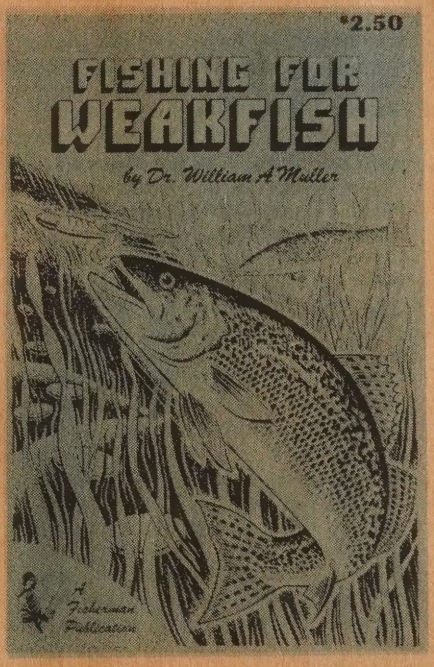

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THE BOTTOM LINE

with Scott Simons

I.G.F.A. Records

Part Two

Last week we covered how the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) maintains world records for salt water gamefish, and the angling rules as fisherman must follow in order to have a fish qualify as a World Record Catch. This week we'll wind things up with a look at how Long Island stacks up against the rest of the world in the record department, what the present IGFA World Records are for our common local species, and how to put in a claim to the IGFA when you catch a fish of possible World Record status.

Before we get into the statistics of records set in our local waters, let's go over the various record categories. For each species recognized as a game fish by the IGFA, World Records are maintained for seven line classes: 6, 12, 20, 30, 50, 80, and 130 lb. class line. Separate records are kept for catches made by men and women in each line class, so there is a total of fourteen World Records for each species. But it is quite common for a vacancy to occur in the higher line classes for the relatively smaller species of fish. For example, there are four record vacancies for the blackfish in the men's and women's 80-lb, and 130-lb. line classes. Who fishes for blackfish with such heavy line? Whenever a line class has such a vacancy, the IGFA sets a "minimum acceptance weight" for any record claims in that class which is usually pretty hefty...in the case of the vacant blackfish records their is a minimum acceptance weight of 16 lbs.

Reprinted on these two facing pages are the current IGFA World Records for eight of our most popular common local fish: Striped Bass, Bluefish, Weakfish, Fluke, Blackfish, Sea Bass, Cod and Pollock. There are 112 World Record categories for these 8 fish, but there are 29 vacant, leaving 83 standing records. If we count the N.Y. Bight area as part of Long Island's waters (which it is), Long Island presently holds 30 records out of a possible total of 83, which is a remarkagle 36.1 percent!

To really appreciate the record holding status of our area you have to stack up the single port of Montauk to the rest of the world. There are presently standing 31 World Record fish that were taken in the waters of the Montauk and Block Island area. Of the 10 current world record categories standing for the Porbeagle Shark, six (or 60%) were taken out of Montauk. Of the 14 current standing records for the Blue Shark, eight were taken off Montauk. How does this compare Montauk in the record department with other fishing areas of the world? Well, there are only three that hold more: Austrailia, New Zealand and the Hawaiian Islands. So unless you think it is a fair comparison to match up a continent (Australia(, an island country (New Zealand), and a chain of islands with thousands of miles of coastline in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, to a single part with much less than 50 miles of coastline, Montauk, Long Island is indisputably the "Fishing Capital of the World!"

Three local anglers have distinguished themselves by presently holding two IGFA World Records. Bea Harry holds both 50-lb. class and 80-lb. class line World Records for Porbeagle Sharks she caught off Montauk. Local Great South Bay master Dr. Einar F. Grell holds the 6-lb. line class IGFA records for both fluke and weakfish. Andy Patty Ishkanian holds the double-distinction of setting TWO IGFA World Records in the SAME DAY—the 30-lb. class line records for cod and pollack.

To have a fish recognized by the IGFA as a World Record, it must have been caught following the angling rules outlined in this column last week. Whenever you catch a fish that may be a possible record, keep the fish moist and immediately return to the dock to weigh it in before there is any weight loss. You'll need an IGFA World Record Application Blank to make a record claim—if one isn't available at the weigh-in station, give me a call at The Fisherman and I'll get one to you. Don't wait too long, though—claims for record fish must be RECEIVED by the IGFA within 60 DAYS of the date of the catch.

All measurements of the fish must be made at the dockside weigh-in with the weighmaster and one disinterested party signing the record application as witnesses. The scale used must have been certified for accuracy within the previous six months by any government agency or other accredited organization. The actual tackle used to catch the fish must be

(Continued on page 29.)

STRIPED BASS

	U. S. CUSTOMARY					
LINE CLASS	Weight lbs. oz.	Length inches	Girth inches	PLACE	DATE	ANGLER
M-6 lb.	38	48½	28	Atlantic City New Jersey, USA	Nov. 5 1973	Charles P. Bliss
W-6 lb.	32	45½	23¼	Cape Cod Bay Massachusetts, USA	July 3 1975	Mae B. Foster
M-12 lb.	61 - 10	53	30	Block Island Rhode Island, USA	July 3 1956	L. A. Garceau
W-12 lb.	47	49½	—	Umpqua R. Oregon, USA	Aug. 21 1958	Mrs. Margaret Hulen
*M-20 lb.	67	55	29½	Block Island Rhode Island, USA	May 31 1963	Jack Ryan
W-20 lb.	57 - 8	50	30	Block Island Sound New York, USA	Aug. 28 1959	Mary R. Aubry
M-30 lb.	63-8	52½	29	Jones Beach Inlet New York, USA	Aug. 17 1973	William E. King, Jr.
W-30 lb.	64 - 8	54	30	North Truro Massachusetts, USA	Aug. 14 1960	Rosa O. Webb
All-Tackle M-50 lb.	72	54½	31	Cuttyhunk Massachusetts, USA	Oct. 10 1969	Edward J. Kirker
W-50 lb.	64	50	31	Sea Bright New Jersey, USA	June 27 1971	Mrs. Asie Espenak
M-80 lb.	Vacant – Minimum Acce					
W-80 lb.	56	53½	33½	Sandy Hook New Jersey, USA	June 7 1955	Mrs. H. J. Sarnoski
M-130 lb.	Vacant – Minimum Acce					
W-130 lb.	Vacant – Minimum Acce					
*TIE M-20 lb.	67	54-1/8	32½	Greenhill Rhode Island, USA	Oct. 3 1965	Wilfred Fontaine

BLUEFISH

	U. S. CUSTOMARY					
LINE CLASS	Weight lbs. oz.	Length inches	Girth inches	PLACE	DATE	ANGLER
M-6 lb.	18-11	40	20	Atlantic Beach North Carolina, USA	Nov. 19 1972	Daniel W. Able
W-6 lb.	14-15	36	19	Nantucket Massachusetts, USA	Sept. 1 1972	Suzanne Cowan
M-12 lb.	24-3	41	22	San Miguel Azores	Aug. 27 1953	M. A. da Silva Veloso
W-12 lb.	16-10	36	19	Montauk New York, USA	June 24 1961	Gloria Better
M-20 lb.	23-12	40	28	Cape May New Jersey, USA	Oct. 9 1971	William Di Santo
W-20 lb.	24-8	40	23½	Nags Head North Carolina, USA	Nov. 12 1971	Mrs. Rita Mazelle
M-30 lb.	22	39	22	Avon North Carolina, USA	Nov. 27 1969	Michael E. Hayes
W-30 lb.	21-8	37	23	Truro Massachusetts, USA	Oct. 10 1970	Ruth M. Anderson
All-Tackle M-50 lb.	31-12	47	23	Hatteras Inlet North Carolina, USA	Jan. 30 1972	James M. Hussey
W-50 lb.	23-15	40½	23½	Nags Head North Carolina, USA	Nov. 19 1970	Mrs. Joyce Payne Bell
M-80 lb.	22-12	38	21-7/8	Arguineguin Gran Canaria	July 19 1971	Kenneth V. Oulton
W-80 lb.	21-8	39¼	21½	Virginia Beach Virginia, USA	Aug. 8 1971	Katherine K. Ayers
M-130 lb.	Vacant – Minimum Acce					
W-130 lb.	Vacant – Minimum Acce					

WEAKFISH

	U.S. CUSTOMARY					
LINE CLASS	Weight lbs. oz.	Length inches	Girth inches	PLACE	DATE	ANGLER
M-6 lb.	13-2	33¼	19	Bayshore, Long I. New York, USA	May 29 1974	Dr. Einar F. Greil
W-6 lb.	8-5	29-3/8	15¾	Fire Island New York, USA	May 13 1973	Mrs. Veronica Grebe
M-12 lb.	11-12	31	17½	Virginia Beach Virginia, USA	June 14 1975	Kenneth O. Few
W-12 lb.	9-9	31½	17½	Chesapeake Bay Virginia, USA	May 19 1975	Dorothy G. Arey
M-20 lb.	12-14	35¾	20	Babylon, Long I. New York, USA	May 19 1975	Walter J. Joseph
W-20 lb.	12-1	30¼	18	Virginia Beach Virginia, USA	May 17 1975	Dorothy G. Arey
M-30 lb.	10-10	36	—	Fire Island Light New York, USA	Sept. 20 1951	J. E. Bailey
W-30 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Acce					
M-50 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Acce					
W-50 lb.	11-12	31¾	18	Morehead City N. Carolina, USA	Oct. 29 1950	Mrs. L. A. Denning
All-Tackle M-80 lb.	19-8	37	23¼	Trinidad West Indies	Apr. 13 1962	Dennis B. Hall
W-80 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Acce					
M-130 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Acce					
W-130 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Acce					

FLUKE

	U.S. CUSTOMARY					
LINE CLASS	Weight lbs. oz.	Length inches	Girth inches	PLACE	DATE	ANGLER
M-6 lb.	18-3	33	31½	Fire Island, Bayshore New York, USA	Dec. 11 1974	Dr. Einar F. Greil
W-6 lb.	5	23 7/8	19¼	Gulf Breeze Florida, USA	June 30 1974	Rose Marie Bonifay
M-12 lb.	20	33	33	Topsail Island N. Carolina, USA	Oct. 26 1972	Chris A. Bowen
W-12 lb.	12-2	31¼	25¼	Avalon New Jersey, USA	Sept. 8 1957	Mrs. Alfred Bernstein
All-Tackle M-20 lb.	30-12	38½	30½	Vina del Mar Chile, SA	Nov. 1 1971	Agusto Nunez Moreno
W-20 lb.	16-15½	34½	28½	Captree New York, USA	July 4 1971	Florence Eidman
M-30 lb.	22-1	37	35	Caleta Horcon Chile, SA	Dec. 8 1965	F. I. Aguirrezabal
W-30 lb.	13-11	33	27½	Long Branch New Jersey, USA	Aug. 20 1953	Mrs. Leslie H. Taylor
M-50 lb.	22-7	35	34	Montauk, L.I. New York, USA	Sept. 15 1975	Charles Nappi
W-50 lb.	20-7	37	29½	Long Island New York, USA	July 8 1957	Mrs. M. Fredriksen
M-80 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Acce					
W-80 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Acce					
M-130 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Acce					
W-130 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Acce					

BLACKFISH

	U.S. CUSTOMARY					
LINE CLASS	Weight lbs. oz.	Length inches	Girth inches	PLACE	DATE	ANGLER
M-6 lb.	14-6	25½	22½	Virginia Beach Virginia, USA	May 17 1972	Linwood A. Martens
W-6 lb.	9	22	21	Bayville, L.I. New York, USA	July 20 1975	Deborah Kuno
M-12 lb.	13-3	26	19½	Virginia Beach Virginia, USA	Apr. 20 1975	Nicholas J. Durney, Sr.
W-12 lb.	10-8	23	18	Montauk New York, USA	June 2 1973	Mrs. Joseph M. Rinaldi
M-20 lb.	21	30	—	Jamestown Island Rhode Island, USA	Nov. 6 1954	C. W. Sundquist
W-20 lb.	10-12	24-5/8	18¼	Asharoken Beach New York, USA	May 7 1962	Trudy H. King
All-Tackle M-30 lb.	21-6	31½	23½	Cape May New Jersey, USA	June 12 1954	R. N. Sheafer
W-30 lb.	11-3	26	19½	Virginia Beach Virginia, USA	May 17 1971	Mrs. Charlotte J. Wright
M-50 lb.	20-14	32	30	Newport Rhode Island, USA	Oct. 20 1955	W. R. Peckham
W-50 lb.	17-6	27½	23¼	Virginia Beach Virginia, USA	May 5 1971	L. Trula Becker
M-80 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Acce					
W-80 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Acce					
M-130 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Acce					
W-130 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Acce					

SEABASS

	U.S. CUSTOMARY					
LINE CLASS	Weight lbs. oz.	Length inches	Girth inches	PLACE	DATE	ANGLER
*M-6 lb.	4-14½	23	15¾	Virginia Beach Virginia, USA	Mar. 8 1974	Michael E. Hayes
*W-6 lb.	3-12	20½	14½	Virginia Beach Virginia, USA	May 1 1972	Mrs. Charlotte J. Wright
*M-12 lb.	5-6	21½	16	Virginia Beach Virginia, USA	May 16 1970	J. David Wright
W-12 lb.	4-4	20½	15¼	Virginia Beach Virginia, USA	May 21 1972	Mrs. Michael E. Hayes
M-20 lb.	6-1	24-1/8	17	Seabright New Jersey, USA	July 13 1958	William Young
W-20 lb.	5-2	23	15	Virginia Beach Virginia, USA	May 17 1971	Mrs. Charlotte J. Wright
*M-30 lb.	5-5	21	19	Virginia Beach Virginia, USA	May 29 1972	Michael E. Hayes
W-30 lb.	5-14	25	14	Cape Henry Virginia, USA	Oct. 2 1972	Mary Lou Penny Durney
All-Tackle M-50 lb.	8	22	19	Nantucket Sound Massachusetts, USA	May 13 1951	H. R. Rider
W-50 lb.	5-1	20½	16	Panama City Beach Florida, USA	July 21 1956	Mrs. R. H. Martin
M-80 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Accep					
W-80 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Accep					
M-130 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Accep					
W-130 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Accep					
*TIES M-6 lb.	5-3	22½	16½	Virginia, USA	1974	Harry L. Hall, Jr.
M-6 lb.	5-2	23	15½	New York, USA	1974	John H. Windels, III
W-6 lb.	4-3	20	13¼	Virginia, USA	1974	Mrs. Charlotte J. Wright

COD

	U.S. CUSTOMARY					
LINE CLASS	Weight lbs. oz.	Length inches	Girth inches	PLACE	DATE	ANGLER
M-6 lb.	19-1½	38	22	Folkestone England	Jan. 10 1973	Christopher O'Hara
W-6 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Acce					
M-12 lb.	55	66	38	Plum Island Massachusetts, USA	July 6 1958	W. C. Dunn
W-12 lb.	17-7	36-3/8	21¼	Plymouth England	Sept. 19 1971	Mrs. Rita Barrett
All-Tackle M-20 lb.	98-12	63	41	Isle of Shoals New Hampshire, USA	June 8 1969	Alphonse J. Bielevich
W-20 lb.	71-8	58	31	Cape Cod Massachusetts, USA	Aug. 2 1964	Muriel Betts
M-30 lb.	81	54-7/8	35½	Brielle New Jersey, USA	Mar. 15 1967	Joseph Chesla
W-30 lb.	33-14	45	28	Fire Island Inlet New York, USA	Aug. 23 1975	Patty Ishkanian
M-50 lb.	80-9	58	38	Boston Massachusetts, USA	May 14 1972	William Bright
W-50 lb.	54-2	55¼	33	Nantucket Island Massachusetts, USA	Sept. 28 1970	Gail A. Mosher
M-80 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Acce					
W-80 lb.	81-12	59¼	39	Middlebank Massachusetts, USA	Sept. 24 1970	Mrs. Sophie Karwa
M-130 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Acce					
W-130 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Acce					

POLLOCK

	U.S. CUSTOMARY					
LINE CLASS	Weight lbs. oz.	Length inches	Girth inches	PLACE	DATE	ANGLER
M-6 lb.	17-9½	35½	22½	Plymouth England	Jan. 1 1973	Roger William Palmer
W-6 lb.	15-2½	41½	22	Plymouth England	Mar. 10 1973	Mrs. Rita Barrett
M-12 lb.	36	47	32	Hunts Point Nova Scotia, Canada	Aug. 10 1965	Perry MacNeal
W-12 lb.	15-7	33¾	19	Nova Scotia Canada	July 9 1963	Janet D. Wallach
M-20 lb.	37-10	46¾	28	Fire Island Inlet New York, USA	Nov. 1 1975	Charles Fischett
W-20 lb.	38	47	14	Westport Nova Scotia, Canada	Aug. 20 1971	Ruth G. Verber
M-30 lb.	40	49½	27	Brielle New Jersey, USA	Oct. 22 1973	Tom Wier
W-30 lb.	35-1	47	26	Fire Island Inlet New York, USA	Aug. 23 1975	Patty Ishkanian
All-Tackle M-50 lb.	46-7	50½	30	Brielle New Jersey, USA	May 26 1975	John Tomes Holton
W-50 lb.	29	42	24¼	Manasquan New Jersey, USA	Nov. 3 1958	Ann Durik
M-80 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Acce					
W-80 lb.	36-1	43	25	Marblehead Massachusetts, USA	Aug. 26 1974	Mary E. Connolly
M-130 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Acce					
W-130 lb.	Vacant — Minimum Acce					

Surf Side with Fred Schwab

The Beach Buggy Part I

It was suggested to me, that an article relating to beach vehicles, might be of interest to LIF readers. Reluctantly, I've accepted what I consider to be a challenge, in view of the fact that it is a wide ranging subject.

While some related matters are dealt with in detail, others, such as "what to buy", are presented in more general terms. There are several reasons for this approach. First of all, for me at least, it's difficult to advise someone as to what they should buy and what accessories they should have, without knowing the individuals specific needs. Secondly, I want to steer clear of arguments with anyone who may have strong preferences for a particular make or model. Third, there are a lot of beach buggy operators who are mechanics or mechanically inclined, and it is hoped that this writing will encourage a few of them to share their expertise by composing a few articles for publication. Finally, there are the many accessory items purchased or fabricated by the angler, after acquiring the vehicle. Some of these have been covered in previous L.I.F. issues, while others, as to specifics, are best determined by the individual, in order to meet his particular needs.

With few exceptions, practically all items commonly put to use in relation to surf fishing, have limited applications. A hook, sand spike, fishing rod, line, reel and lures, gaff, creepers, plug bag and so on, have one primary function. Conversely, a beach vehicle can, and often is, put to many uses.

The vehicle can be small and simple, fulfilling only basic needs, or it can be large and extremely complex, furnishing a wide variety of creature comforts; a sort of home away from home. Acquiring a beach vehicle involves a considerable cash outlay, particularly if it is purchased new. For most anglers it is a long term investment. In addition to the obvious desire for transportation to, along and from the beach for angling purposes, the buyer must determine whether or not he will put the vehicle to other uses. Will it be used for family recreation, such as extended vacations and camping trips; double as the family car or have application in the pursuit of one's livlihood? An individual may also have a problem with respect to the storage or parking of the vehicle when not being used. These factors, in addition to cost, must be considered in determining, not only type of the vehicle, but the accessories which one must have to meet his and his family's needs and desires.

After having hoofed it for a good number of years, I finally purchased a new Volkswagon Bus in 1964. Of course it wasn't a four-wheel drive vehicle, but it was really all I could afford, and it did fulfill my needs at the time. Equipped with wide surfaced tires, and after reducing tire pressure to 10 or 12 pounds, it could, with a minimum of problems, negotiate "some" of the beaches which I normally fished. Admittedly, it had it's limitations and there were occasions when a further reduction of tire pressure, or far more exercise with a shovel than I cared for, were necessary for extricating the vehicle from the sand.

Aside from the obvious benefits of being able to travel over larger areas in shorter periods of time; carry a greater inventory of equipment, and the always close at hand availability of shelter and essential needs to permit longer stays on the beach; there was another consideration which influenced the decision to purchase a beach buggy. My wife and two young children, ages 2 and 5, enjoyed spending summer days at the beach and, fortunately for me, expressed a strong desire to go on overnight fishing trips as well as camping vacations. The bus was ideal, and having purchased it with a stripped down interior; cabinets, drawers, seating and sleeping facilities, a combination fish and ice box, as well as all finishing touches, were self-installed to suit our needs and desires. There was ample space, while the children were small, greater headroom when seated in the rear than in most four-wheel drives, and it certainly was more economical to operate.

During the following seven years we covered a lot of territory, both on and off the beach. The countless days spent on ocean beaches and yearly camping ventures, mostly on the Vermont shores of Lake Champlain, taught my children things which no book or educational system could teach. It developed in them, an attitude of reverence towards the outdoors, it's natural wonders and all the living things; creatures large and small. Our beach buggy/camper was the means by which my children entered into a world of wonder, achieving a greater understanding of the true values of life. How many teenagers excitedly call their parents out of their houses to witness the beauty of a crimson sunset, scold a

schoolmate for littering, have observed a seal sunning itself on a rocky beach or an Osprey on the hunt, and how many care enough to protect a tiny spider from some misguided person, eager to crush out it's life? Angling wise, many a fine catch went into the fish box, attesting to the value of the buggy as a fishing machine.

But alas, the day came when need for a replacement was all too evident. Where once my son could stretch out in his bunk with a foot and a half to spare, the natural process of growth now forced him to assume a position resembling a human pretzel. My family had outgrown our beloved Volkswagon. Seemingly, the vehicle was still mechanically sound, but long exposure to damp salt air, dripping waders and wet suit had resulted in the inevitable, rusting and rotted metal.

In 1972 we purchased a four-wheel drive ¾ ton Chevrolet Pick-up, and shortly afterward obtained a 9 foot, with cabover, camper body. Not big enough compared to some rigs of this type, but more than adequate for my family of four. In place of the comparatively small coleman we now have a three burner stove with oven. Other luxuries which we did not have before, include an enclosed lavatory, running water with a twenty gallon storage capacity, kitchen sink, ample storage space for clothing, food and fishing gear, full length beds for all, and so on.

With the four-wheel drive we can now travel on beaches which I wouldn't have dared to go on with the VW. A really big bonus for all of us, but especially me, is the campers interior height, which permits one to stand upright. If you've ever experienced the agony of peeling off a wet suit on a windy beach with the temperature hovering in the thirties, after a full night's fishing, when you're tired and resistance to cold is very low; then you'll appreciate the value of that feature.

As I've tried to illustrate, there are many advantages to owning a big rig, however, in addition to higher operating costs, it is also true that there are certain disadvantages. For instance, at Montauk and along the North Shore, there are several access routes and shortcuts which I can no longer use. These dirt roads, through wooded areas, can not be used by camper type vehicles due to their height and width. Another problem with the larger campers is their "high" center of gravity. Some rigs are a bit top heavy and along a sloped beach it will have a tendency to slide out of the track. Of course, should the pitch of the beach be extreme, there is the threat of tipping over.

The angler who doesn't like advertising his approach to, or departure from a favored spot, and the lad who fishes locations where concealment is necessary or desirable, will find the larger rigs to be a handicap. There are some good fishing areas which for a variety of debatable reasons, are off limits to "some" but not to all beach buggy traffic and there are anglers willing to risk harassment or a summons for a chance at some good fishing. This requires stealth in what often becomes a game of hide and seek with area residents and the local gendarmes. Of course, the bigger the rig, the greater the odds are against the anglers success. Incidentally, it's not my intention to encourage disregard for the law, or for the rights of property owners. Restrictions pertaining to beaches or adjacent areas, which apply to all vehicular traffic, for bonafide safety or environmental reasons, or because it is, in fact, private property, should and must be obeyed. The same holds true where a beach is closed to all traffic for justifiable reasons, or where usage is restricted to properly equipped vehicles, only. On the other hand, in my book, a beach open for one group, to the exclusion of all others, on the basis of the "home rule" concept, or for some other selfish excuse or false reason, is fair game.

In the final analysis, a beach is something which was created by a far higher authority than a mere man, group of affluent persons or a government. Had it been the creators intention that it be available only to a privileged few, restrictions would exist within the natural order of things. The creator put it there, and except for those considerations already mentioned, only he has the moral right to deny it's use. But more on this subject in some future article.

Something to watch out for after purchasing that first beach vehicle, and food for thought to those who already own one, is the fact that a buggy often tends to make one lazy. Rather than actually fishing, some anglers fall into the "sit and watch" pattern, and on cold and windy days or when conditions are not just what they want, that's all they'll do. Some won't budge until they witness fish being caught. Another example, which is a mistake particularly at night, is the fellow intent upon reaching a specific location some distance down the beach. Upon his arrival at the beach, he heads straight for that spot, passing up yards and even miles of potentially good water. The wise energetic buggy operator, as well as the man on foot, will work the beach as he goes, unless his target location is a rip or bar at night there's been a repeated appearance of fish; and based on past experience, he's fairly certain that the waters he's passing are not too productive.

Another bad habit, is the tendency to become so dependent upon having the buggy and all it's conveniences close by,

(Continued on page 29.)

News Releases

RUTHERFORD ADULT SCHOOL SPORTFISHING COURSE BY MILT ROSKO

The Rutherford Adult School is including a Salt Water Sportfishing course on its spring schedule. The comprehensive six week course will be taught by Milt Rosko, and will afford north Jersey and New York anglers a fine opportunity to increase their angling skills.

The course will be held for two hours on Tuesday nights beginning March 2nd. It will deal primarily with local fishing in middle Atlantic waters, and will include everything from bottom fishing for winter flounders, fluke, and porgies, to heading offshore for such game as bluefin tuna, bluefish and bonito. Milt will also devote two evenings to the popular striped bass, weakfish and bluefish, covering both surf and jetty fishing for them, as well as trolling and live bait fishing.

At a time of the year when coastal fishing is at a virtual standstill it presents a fine opportunity for you to get out of the house and enjoy an evening a week of learning with other anglers.

To register, send you name, address and phone number, plus a check for $17 to Rutherford Adult School, 56 Elliott Place, Rutherford, New Jersey 07070. For additional information, Call 933-2233 between 3 and 5 P.M. weekdays.

SAVE OUR STRIPERS SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

Save Our Stripers, The Sportsmen's Group that continues to fight for the protection of the Striped Bass Fishery, is seeking new members for 1976.

While its main goals have been a New York State Bass Law to protect the Sport Fishery, and safeguards to prevent the destruction of the Hudson River Spawning Grounds, this year SOS faces a new challenge—that of getting the state to conduct a full and thorough study of PCB (Polychlorinated Byphenal) in striped bass frequenting New York waters. There are strong indications that fish exposed to PCB in the Hudson can be hazardous to eat.

All sport anglers and conservationists wanting to support Save Our Stripers in its efforts, can join by sending their five dollar membership dues to: Membership, SOS, Box 116, Massapequa Park, NY 11762. Anyone who is interested in actively working with SOS should call Bob Rance, Phone Number (516) 541-8676 for information on how you can help.

Refining Basic Surf Skills

Part I

by Fred Schwab

How many times have you experienced a situation in which fish are on a feeding rampage or appeared in prodigious numbers, yet they could not be coaxed into hitting a lure, or only a few individuals within a crowd of anglers of seemingly equal ability accounted for all or at least the lions share of the catch? How about those times when the water appears to be completely sterile, there being absolutely no sign of fish, yet one lone caster manages a steady "pick"? If you've been flailing the water with an idiot stick for a few years, chances are you have had such experiences on a number of occasions.

These situations are probably the most frequent of frustrating experiences encountered by anglers, the very best included. There is no simple answer as to why fish refuse to fall for an anglers bag of tricks or show a marked preference for the offerings of one over another. The reason or reasons, will vary dependent upon the situation, and in some instances will remain an unsolved mystery. The unanswerable will often give rise to such statements as, "those fish had no mouths" or, "they weren't feeding" and "that guy had the spot." Of course the first of these is fantasy, the second is rarely true if the fish are showing, and while there are most assuredly exceptions, the last is seldom an accurate appraisal.

Though there is no guarantee that at any given time anything will work, there are certainly ways in which one can cut down the odds of these situations always resulting in a fishless day.

In our little corner of the marine world no sight quickens a beach anglers pulse more than a school of striped bass or bluefish slashing and rolling their way through the myriads of fleeing baitfish, accompanied by clouds of excited gulls wheeling and diving overhead. Obviously the fish are feeding on or very near the surface and the use of popping or surface plugs is called for. After several unrewarded casts, under such conditions a very hopeful and already nervous angler is about to "pop his cork", especially if he's felt fish strike or has spotted repeated "boils" in the wake of the dumb object at the end of his line.

At this point a number of things can be tried. If there are other anglers present, keep an eye on them and if faring better than you....OBSERVE. What are they using and precisely how is it being used? Are they using a fast, slow, or variable retrieve? Long or short casts? Are they casting on an angle or straight out from the beach, and at what distance from the beach are they picking up fish? If using surface plugs, be sure to note whether or not they're "popping" them, if so, is it on a repeated systematic basis or just occasional, and to what extent, slight and hardly splashing the surface....or violent and throwing a spray of water? When their lures hit the water's surface do they pause or immediately begin the retrieval process? Are water conditions through which their lures are moving, significantly different from that in which you are fishing? Are they using wire leaders; are you? Quite often fish will shy away from a lure for this reason.

Be a sharp observer, never lose sight of the fact that quite often a very slight and seemingly unimportant factor can mean the difference between success and failure. That difference could, at any given time, be due to one or more of the factors just mentioned, they being the most common, but remember, differences are not limited to these alone.

If the others are doing no better than you or you're alone, you must go through a process of elimination and EXPERIMENTATION. Try the variations previously mentioned with frequent changes in color, type and size of lures used. An especially keen observer can often spot a clue which will reduce the amount of time he might otherwise have wasted through random selection from the contents of his plug bag. In this respect, of prime importance would be the type and size of the bait which the fish are feeding on, and if possible, it's behavior or movements. If the bait is relatively small and necessary casting distance permits, start with smaller lures which most closely resemble it.

Probably the most common saltwater popping plugs in use today are the 3 ounce Atom Striper Swiper and the 2¼ ounce Creek Chub Striper Striker. Both are excellent choices and account for plenty of fish each season. There are times however, when only one or neither of these appeals to the fish. Switching to a smaller model (1½ ounce Striper Striker, personal preference), has often saved the day for me. On still other occasions a heavier homemade model of similar design has turned the trick when these standby's have failed, and I should add that the additional distance obtained with the heavier homemades was not always the reason for its success. On occasion the fish seemed to show preference for a surface lure that had a tendency to run deeper and sort of wallow through the water.

While on the subject of surface poppers, perhaps one of the most common mistakes among anglers is the application of too much speed and rod action during the retrieve. Many anglers either do this unconsciously or in the mistaken belief that a rapid popping action and a fast retrieve will get more strikes than a slow moving plug. There's no denying that the resultant splashing and related commotion is an attention getter, and there certainly are times when fish, particularly blue's, will show a marked preference for a lure moving at top speed, but over the course of a season, a slow to moderate retrieve and gentle rod action will produce far more strikes. Of course the proper retrieve at any given time, is something which only you can discover. Just keep in mind that there's only one "right" way to successfully work a lure, and that's the way the fish want it, on that particular occasion.

Though the aforegoing made considerable reference to surface lures, which your's truly most enjoys using during daylight hours, most of what was said, with obvious exceptions, is applicable to swimmers and jigs. Remember, there will be days when surface lures will not produce, so when venturing down to the shore in quest of fish, take a variety of lures with you.

When you start out experimenting with the intention of trying each and every lure, until you hopefully find the one which takes fish, be sure to limit the time spent with each one, especially if the fish are in solid. Some half dozen or less, unrewarded casts with variations in the retrieve and angle of cast are usually sufficient, otherwise you may be spending precious time with a lure which just isn't going to catch fish, while the very next one you select may be the right one for that occasion.

If nothing produces it is then advisable to settle down with your favorite, the

lure which you have the greatest confidence in, or the one which you think has the best chance of catching fish under the existing conditions. Of course, moving on to another location is a logical decision, unless there are signs of fish in the area, in that case it's advisable to stick it out. Fish are unpredictable and will for unexplained reasons, sometimes start hitting a lure which only minutes before they had spurned.

Now the following advice may seem to be somewhat contradictory to the previous paragraph, however it is a course of action which requires using ones judgement based upon existing condtions. Feeding fish may be showing more at a particular location than at any other along the beach. Each angler coming into the area will in all likelihood head for that spot, which if they are out to catch fish, is advisable and usually the right thing to do. However, sometimes the location at which the presence of fish is most obvious may not be the most productive. Among the many reasons for this could be, that at the center of feeding activity the bait is so numerous that a lure is simply lost "in the crowd", or the fish may have become extremely selective, falling for only the most perfect imitation and presentation. Therefore, one may sometimes enjoy greater success by concentrating his efforts at what appear to be the edges of the school.

Earlier in this article it was noted that water conditions are a factor to be considered. Even during potential blitz situations this can make a very big difference. Flat, gin clear water is rarely productive. Under such conditions fish, even when actively feeding, are more often than not very difficult and sometimes impossible to fool. Along ocean beaches this problem can sometimes be resolved by moving to a spot where wave action is creating some white water. Of course, if a school of feeding fish are evident, the spot which is selected should be nearby and in the direction in which they appear to be moving. The patch of white water need not be very large. Occasionally during the season and in particular, when the fall mullet run is underway, schools of feeding fish can be seen working along south shore beaches within casting range, but refusing all that is offered until they reach a comparatively tiny speck of white water. Here the turbulence and consequently, reduced visibility in the water and in some cases, added action which moving water gives to a lure makes it easier to fool the fish. There is little doubt that the fish become more aggressive and therefore less wary simply because they must react quicker to keep up with and catch their intended prey, which can elude the predator far easier in cloudy turbulent water as opposed to clear and still condition.

If there is no "white water" to be found within the immediate vicinity, look for a small rip, stretch of choppy water or the swirls and boils which occur around and over submerged objects. These are good spots to try even when fishing is lousy and you are scratching around for some action.

Earlier in this article a preference for the use of surface lures during daylight was expressed. The reasons are quite easy to explain; first of all, unlike tins and swimmers you can see the plug perform and witness what happens when the retrieve is varied. Secondly, the working of a surface lure necessitates more activity on the anglers part than the use of most sub-surface lures. Third, at least for me, fooling a fish into striking at a surface plug creates a greater feeling of accomplishment and finally there's the added bonus of often seeing the fish strike at, or boil under or behind the plug. Even though the fish may be missed, such a sight is an added thrill, one which is rarely experienced when sub-surface lures are in use. Certainly, not everyone has the same preference. I know of several anglers who love using tins and do very well indeed. So the recommendation is, as already stated, carry a variety of lures with you, but for some added thrills be persistent with the surface designs.

Part II will be devoted to fishing at night.

HOOKS

(Continued from page 7.)

Hook sizes are often confusing to fishermen. Why there isn't a uniform way of describing hooks, I don't know. Attempts have been made, but have never been successful for any length of time.

Small hooks run from size 1 to 22, with size decreasing as the numbers go higher. On the other side of the scale, larger hooks run from 1/0 to 20/0, with the size increasing with the numbers. In other words, a 2/0 hook would be smaller than a 3/0, and a number six larger than a number eight, and so on.

I told you that it was confusing, and the only way to remember is to get hold of a good hook catalog and spend some time studying its contents. If you are really serious about your fishing, this is no chore. Besides, all these little things will help you become a well-rounded fishermen.

Maybe you've missed being a rag-tag kid in Brooklyn, eagerly sniffing out hard to get fishing knowledge, but now it's no longer necessary. Libraries are chock-full of the finest books on fishing. Go have yourself a reading binge. Find out how far we've come since the dreary days of old Oog.

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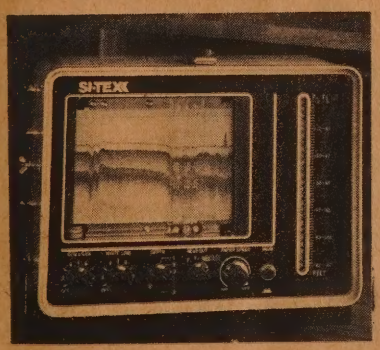

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OUR BELOVED STRIPER

by Mickey Chiarenza

Would you believe that some day in the future the striped bass may become America's number one gamefish, across the land? It is and has been numero uno for east coast anglers for some time now, but would you believe that fishermen in Arizona , Oklahoma and Tennessee to name just a few are getting that same kind of bass fever and drive to catch stripers that coastal fishermen have had for generations, and they are catching these fish right in their own backyards!

I am speaking of land locked striped bass, either trapped in river systems by new dams built to generate electricity or implanted by conservation officials. It really started some time ago when rural areas with a need for electric power began damming up their rivers, rivers that stripers used for spawning and migrated from were suddenly "locked up" and stripers were trapped within its confines. Such a place where this occured is in South Carolina at the Santee Cooper River which was dammed up to create the Sante Cooper Reservoir. It was some time after the dam was built, in the mid 50's that conservation officials learned that small fingerling stripers and a growing population of bass were flourishing and proved beyond a doubt that stripers could survive a totally fresh water environment. To help in the study, additional tagged stripers were added to the stock of resident bass. The upper reaches of the river contained fresh water species and as the salt content of the water became diluted with ever increasing fresh runoff water these species found home in the lower portions as well where brackish or salt water once flowed. Along the borders of the Santee Cooper Reservoir fishing lodges sprang up advertising "largemouth, smallmouth and striped bass fishing". Not too far away a similar occurence took place with the creation of Kerr Reservoir on the borders of Virginia and North Carolina. Perhaps these places were the early testing grounds for the future of the striper in fresh water. With the appearance of young fingerling stripers in landlocked waters conservationists were certain that the striper was here to stay for future generations. The precedent was set for other areas that stripers could survive and breed without any salt water at all. Stripers are an anadromous fish, meaning that they spend most of their time in salt water and travel into fresh water to spawn, so a freshwater environment isn't all that strange to the striped bass, especially since it was its origin to begin with. Some biologists believed that any anadromous species could survive a totally fresh water environment due to its biological or physical capabilities. It is truly a fascinating subject as is the migration habits of the striper as well. I strongly urge you to read a current book entitled, "The Complete Book Of The Striped Bass" by Nicholas Karas. In a section of the book, Mr. Karas explains why the striper can live entirely in fresh water, its growth and distribution in its new environment. I believe this work to be the most complete and for the anglers eye view a deeper understanding of the biological aspects.

To purposely stock stripers in inland lakes and reservoirs far inland with a basic stock of resident freshwater gamefish is quite a different matter. Conservationsts with fresh thoughts in their minds of the disastrous complications that can come about from stocking alien fish or messin' with mother nature were not too eager to jump into a program of this magnitude without further study, testing and experimentation. The history of the carp came from the orient and the newly arrived "walking catfish" from Thailand was good enough to make sure. The results were quite surprising in some cases. No adverse effects on existing gamefish populations were reported from a widespread area and in fact "improved resident" gamefishing was evident in some areas. Bodies of water that contained an over abundance of baitfish was made to order for the striper. in these areas stripers thinned down the overcrowding of baitfish such as gizzard shad to a normal and balanced condition, and in effect the existing gamefish were allowed to become healthier for normal growth. Another plus for the striper was his need for more oxygen and so stripers preferred to remain in the deeper and more open expanses of reservoirs and lakes and in no way effected the feeding habits of the resident freshwater species that inhabit the banks and nearby waters.

Stripers can now be found in forty two reservoirs in eighteen states in a strictly fresh water environment. These states are; Arizona, Arkansas, Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Maryland, Nebraska, Mississippi, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

Experimentation by conservationists and biologists in Texas, Florida and Tennessee led to a hybrid species. The white bass native to fresh water and relative to the striped bass has a biological chemistry similar to that of the striper. This idea proposed that a possible superior species could develop. The hybrid Striper/White bass showed that it could grow faster and have a remarkable survival rate as compared to the landlocked sea going striper. In my opinion, what the biologists were able to accomplish here was in all probability, jump mother natures timetable by a million years or so and produce a fish that would eventually develop from the true striper. Already, fresh water oriented bass have shown to have deeper bodies, somewhat shorter lengths and take on the coloration of freshwater species depending too on the geography.

Almost one hundred years ago stripers were introduced to the Pacific ocean by means of cars in a number of trips from the east coast. It is said that some fish were released in the Mississippi River along the way. The history of the striper in the Pacific shows two main bodies that

developed near fresh water rivers. One is in Central California in the San Francisco area where the fish travel into the Delta region to spawn and the second in further north in Coos Bay, Oregon. From the onset, the propagation of the striper was fully protected from commercial and sport interests to insure their survival. The great populations of stripers that exist there today are virtually untapped by east coast standards. No commercial fishing exists until today and rigid regulations are imposed on even the sport fishermen. Stripers can be found in at least seventeen coastal states with reasonable populations. All toll with bass found in fresh water, stripers can be found in "twenty eight" different states, with seven of these states carrying a salt water and a landlocked fresh water population.

Fishing techniques for stripers in the fresh water environment depends mostly on the natural surroundings that exist in a particular geographic location. Stripers in the Colorado River find shelter around huge boulders while others in the southeast find still water and the cover of tall grass more to their liking. Those who have fished for the striper in the upper Chesapeake or Hudson Rivers will not find techniques or baits so strange. The methods will vary and depend on the bait that exists there. Long gone are the memories of the bass when his ancestors chased sand eels, mackerel, mossbunker squid and other bait for his daily meal. The diet in fresh water will consist of crawfish instead of crab and whatever prey could be found such as gizzard shad, shiners and other species of minnows. Near the head waters of rivers where brackish water marks the barrier between salt and fresh water some of the best baits to use to lure stripers to the hooks have been sculpin, bullheads, shad and others. Throughout the northeast, southeast, and parts of the south, eels find their way into fresh water. This bait may be the only food that can be found in both worlds of the striper.

Barring long surf rods to reach outer sand bars and heavy wire line trolling equipment, tackle for the most part used for the inland striper is the same, consisting of medium to light weight spinning, baitcasting and conventional rods and reels. If the striper is introduced into the great lakes it is possible that the wire line technique might come into play in the inland seas, however with the introduction of coho salmon some years ago, fishermen there have readily taken to planers and deep trolling systems instead of metal lines. When it comes to artificial baits, the striper is just as game as ever, smashing popper plugs, swimmers, metal lures, lead head jigs, natural swimming type tube lures and soft plastic bait imitations Fly rodders now have their work cut out for them, beefing up their gear to handle bigger fish. Maybe they can learn something from salt water fly rodders?

To date the largest striper caught is a 50 pound fish taken from the Colorado River of Arizona in 1973. Other states are not posting state records for the striper that are impressive to their residents and quite naturally the bass fever is spreading. There are local restrictions and creel limits. Will the coastal striper angler compete with the fresh water angler for record fish? Probably not, since those fish have now joined the ranks of the fresh water system, but posted state records will probably have to define both. One thing remains for sure, there are many anglers now across the land that have found a mutual admiration for "our beloved striper."

INSURANCE

(Continued from page 6.)

motor size; the higher the horsepower of your engine, the more you're going to pay for liability insurance. Exactly how much liability insurance you should carry is largely a matter of personal choice, though in this day and age it is hard to carry too much. The cost may not be as great as you think either; regardless of engine horsepower, the difference between a bare mimimum $25,000 policy and a far more substantial $100,000 is likely to be a mere $10 in premium cost. One of the ways to save on insurance costs is to take a U.S. Power Squadron or Coast Guard Auxiliary boating safety course, as many insurance companies grant a discount of as much as 10% to the boatman who has successfully completed one of these courses. Some companies also begin to drop the premium charges after you have put in a few accident-free seasons.

Whichever type of marine insurance you choose and whatever company you decide to go with, be sure you read your policy thoroughly at the outset. It is a poor time to start determining what your policy does and does not cover after you have suffered a mishap. If you are not clear in your mind over any particular facet of your coverage, phone your broker and clarify the point. Another wise precaution, though there are no "good" and "bad" insurance companies among the major underwriters to my knowledge, is to go with a company that specializes in marine insurance.

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HOT SPOTS:
Reality or Myth?

by Gerald Hahn

The only way to determine whether you have discovered a great place to fish, commonly known as a "hot spot", is to test it for consistency. Don't be thrown by the angler who returns everytime with a bag full (you think) from his secret spot. The odds are that he had to work for them and what he fails to tell you is how many hours he put in not just on that day but others before that place began to produce. You also have go sort out just what kinds of odds you want to play. If you restrict your surfcasting to blues, stripers, and weaks, your odds are going to go down (but your thrills may increase). If you include fishing for bottom feeders from the surf, e.g., porgies, flounders, etc. or small surface feeders, e.g., snappers, your average will probably be better. Even then, there is no guarantee.

You have to remember that it is all relative. For the striped bass angler, one 40 pounder might make the difference between a great or lousy season. Are you comparing the amount of fish you caught this season to other anglers or to yourself in terms of previous seasons? All of this is important especially if you have limited time to fish and return home skunked most of the time and then complain about trawlers netting most of them while pollution finishes off the rest.

I remember fishing many years ago around the Hamptons. I kept running into two old timers, one at the same place and the other at different ones. The first was basically a baitcaster who worked the same spot every summer. He kept complaining to me about how poor the fishing was this season in relation to the previous one. The following summer I ran into him again, at the same place, and struck up a conversation with him. I realized that he didn't remember me. While he began to complain, again, about this season's fishing, I asked him, "what about last year, here?" Wasn't it lousy too?" "Last year," he answered, "Oh, no, it was great." The second angler was a purist; he only fished with artificials and bottom feeders, clearly, did not interest him. Everyday, he drove up and down all the beaches in this area looking for blues. After 6 weeks of this, he came over to me one evening and said, "Last night, I caught 3 blues off Napeqgue." I congratulated him. "You know," he continued, "a little boy saw the fish and came over to me and he asked me how long it took to catch those fish. I answered, 'are we talking about minutes, hours, days, weeks, or months?

For the former, last year will always be better because he lacks curiosity not only about other areas in the vicinity but also about the potential of the place he selected in the first place. Perhaps, it produced for him at one time, years ago and that is what he focuses on. For the latter, whose odds are considerably poorer, an endless compulsion to catch an inconsistent pelagic species on his terms creates a futile situation most of the time which he is willing to accept. More power to him but it's not my style either.

This summer, I had the opportunity to do a lot of surfcasting and rather than search endlessly for a particular species or to remain in one spot exclusively, I decided to try a number of different rather well known spots within a reasonable distance from one another. I wanted to see how the patterns would emerge at each while keeping the type of fish sought relatively open. gradually, I alternated my schedule at these places so as to cover each at different hours, i.e., until one would begin to produce more consistently at a given period. The areas I covered from July through the fall were the Smith Point Bridge, Moriches Inlet, Shinnecock Canal and Inlet, and the Shoreham Jetty. I also fished elsewhere, e.g., Jones Inlet, Glen Cove, and Wildwood State park but not with enough regularity to include them in the comparison. To simplify this, I will focus on two spots; Shoreham and the Shinnecock Inlet because eventually, I wound up at these places the most times. Briefly, the Smith Point Bridge seemed to produce best during the spring while the Canal was not very good. (i.e., I caught more of the same species elsewhere); perhaps Moriches Inlet could have been the best but in this case, it was too difficult to continue going there without a beach vehicle. (It is a 1½ mile walk from the east end to the inlet) and after 8 trips, I had to give it up, considering the amount of fishing I was doing elsewhere.

The only place for me was the jetty at Shoreham. As soon as I discovered it, I realized that it was a good place to catch porgies. It was the beginning of July, however, and this is useful to the angler who gets a brief vacation and decides to fish a new spot. It took me about a week before I figured out all the best possibilities to increase my catch here. At first, I checked the place constantly at different hours and talked to regulars there. I realized by trial and error that the best time to catch porgies here was at dawn especially when combined with an outgoing tide. I only took a few fish the first few times because I kept arriving around 9 A.M. or later along with most of the anglers. As soon as I discovered that only a few anglers were catching the most fish, I planned my schedule accordingly and my catch doubled from around 5 to 10 fish for the same amount of time spent. Even then, I noticed that other early risers were pulling in fish a lot faster than I was. I used the same rig in tandem, the same 2 oz. bank tied about 3" below and the same bait, the bloodworm. What they did specifically, was to fish from the end of the jetty, not the middle, and to cast diagonally to the northeast where I discovered a deep drop-off. From then on, I woke up a little earlier in order to secure a position on the jetty that would enable me to cast to the most productive hot spot. By the time the regular 9 am anglers would arrive, I was ready to leave and they were continuously baffled by the 20 or so porgies I had caught while they continued to catch only a few. From July until around mid-August, this pattern continued fairly regularly.

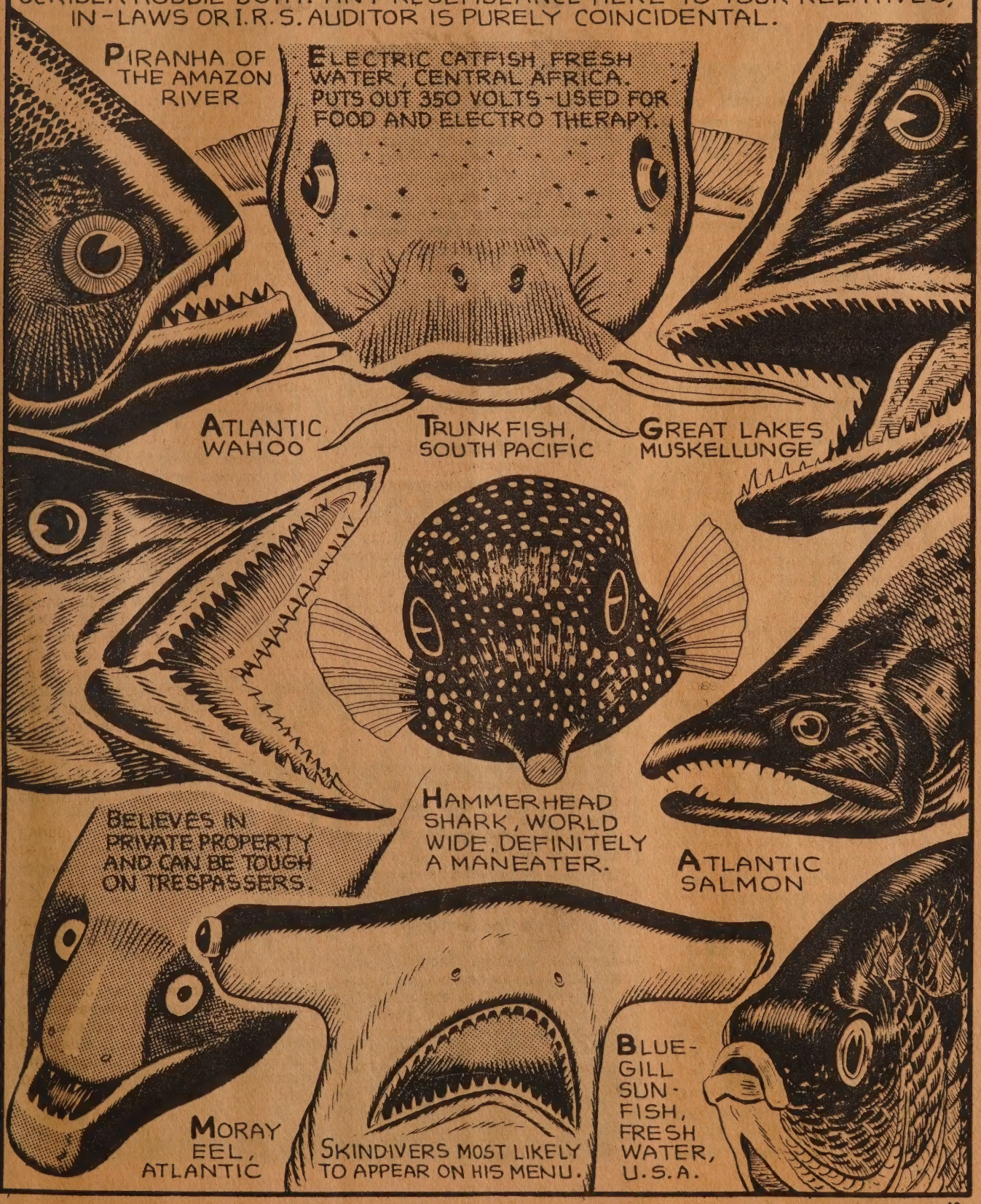
Meanwhile, at Shinnecock during July, I struck out continuously. I tried fishing there at all hours for any species and frequently gave up the productive hours at Shoreham in order to test this area. But it was no go. People told me stories alright, about the 14 weaks they caught the previous evening (or year) but I never saw anyone catch fish here during July except for an occasional sandshark or sea robin. I tried artificials and all kinds of bait and rigs; I worked the end of this jetty on both sides and back in a bit too. I was beginning to think as many do, that here was an over-rated place. One day, at the beginning of

(Continued on page 27.)

PISCATORIAL PORTRAITS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

PICTURED BELOW IS A COLLECTION OF FISH HEADS INSPIRED BY THE EXCELLENT PHOTOS IN THE BOOK "*LIVING FISHES OF THE WORLD*" BY EARL S. HERALD AND LENT TO ME BY 10 YEAR OLD SPORT FISHERMAN AND SUBSCRIBER ROBBIE DOHT. ANY RESEMBLANCE HERE TO YOUR RELATIVES, IN-LAWS OR I.R.S. AUDITOR IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.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HAMMERHEAD SHARK, WORLD WIDE, DEFINITELY A MANEATER.
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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Captain Lester Behan of the **Peconic Queen III** told us that fishing was only fair during the week so they tried Cox's Ledge on Saturday which wasn't all that great either. The fish that were taken, however, were large—Max Wilhemsen of Huntington took the $300 pool with a 44 lb. cod. Lester told us that it still is a little too early for Cox's Ledge and the best area at present seems to be southeast of Block Island. Sunday was very windy and not many fish were taken in the heavy seas. Walter Tscherne of Glendale took first place in the pool with a 28 pound cod for $177. Tommy Wohlgneth of Mastic took second prize of $20 with a 24 pound fish. The **Peconic**

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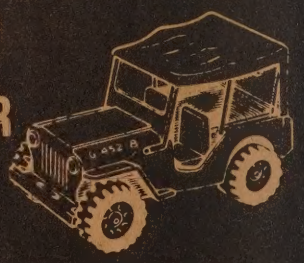

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Queen III will be making their first Nantucket wreck trip in March so watch their ad. Lester also said they are planning on doing some special snowshoe flounder fishing starting around St. Patricks Day.

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Star** is happy to report that the codfishing is on a much improved level now. Roughly 400 cod between 8 and 12 pounds were taken for Friday and Saturday's fishing. Montauk angler Bernie Ray took the pool on Friday with a 44 pound monster cod. Paul is fishing the Block Island area. Be sure to see details in the **Viking Star** ad for the monster cod and halibut Safari coming up soon.

Captain John Sekora stopped in to proudly tell us that in 1975 three superb catches were made on his Sekora Rigs; a 59½ pound striper taken on a large single amber tube out of Montauk's Start Island Marine, a 13 pound 7 ounce weakfish and a 12 pound weakfish on a black sekora umbrella by Al Smith, and a 23 pound 9 ounce blue taken out of Huntington Harbor again on a single large tube.

MORICHES BAY

Larry of **L&M Marine** told us that they managed to get one rental skiff out on Saturday and the anglers had excellent results for this early in the year. Barry Turano and Bob Harder, both of the East Bay Anglers Club of Merrick, took 2 dozen flounder averaging ¾ of a pound at buoy 46 using worms for bait and chumming with clam.

CAPTREE

Captain George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** told us that the boat was in the shipyard this week for a paint job and repairs in preparation for the new season. Codfishing has just about had it so it is a matter of waiting for the first flounder to wake up.

Captain Neil of the **Lady Ann** tells us that his boat is presently in the shipyard having a lot of seating improvements installed and a general sprucing up for the upcoming season. The boat will be out of the shipyard in about 1 month. The **Lady Ann** will resume chartering at the end of March, and on non-charter days will be sailing open for the "Speedy V." The **Lady Ann** sailed Monday, Thursday and Saturday with Monday's catch being 45 cod and 21 on Saturday, fishing in 80 feet of water east/southeast of the inlet.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

LINDENHURST

Captain J. Porter is Florida bound to personally supervise the electronics installation of the new super range head boat, **Bullet**. He said that the electronics is going to cost almost as much as the ship. If this boat is as successful as others run by Captain Porter you can look forward to good days on the **Bullet**. Jay will be fishing for tile and cod all summer long on a regular basis, leaving from the Anchorage Marina, Lindenhurst.

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

Captain Richie Kessinger of the **Starstream II** reported that 15 to 18 codfish were taken on Friday. On Saturday conditions for drifting were excellent so they concentrated on whiting and ling with very good results. Sunday's poor weather kept the boat at the dock. The **Starstream** will be going into the shipyard on March 1st and then will start running for spring cod and blackfish on St. Patricks Day.

Captain Johnny A. of the **Miss Freeport** reported making the first flounder trip of the season on Saturday with very good results. 2 dozen keepers were taken on worms, and no chum was used. Fish were taken on every drop at Squaw Island, Swift Creek, and Long Creek. The **Miss Freeport** is now sailing every Saturday and Sunday for flounder.

The Hook Line and Sinker Marine Supply Shop, which is also the home of the water born catering vessel **Bay Gull** has moved up the street to 165 Woodcleft Avenue, smack in the middle of the Al Grover Complex, at the stop light. Bob says stop in for free coffee any time.

We are happy to announce that Captain Paul Schmidt of the **Aloma Fleet** with a little help from Mrs. Schmidt, is now the proud father of a brand new baby boy who they have named George, after Paul's father, a veteran of many a day at sea out of Freeport. The Fisherman staff wishes the family and the baby the best of luck.

NEW **AMBERJACK IV** NEW

SHEEPSHEAD BAY—Pier III 7AM Mon./Fri. 6AM Sat., Sun. & Hol.
ALL POSSIBLE ELECTRONICS—112' ALL STEEL FISHING YACHT
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6 A.M. —OPEN BOAT, SAT., SUN. & HOL.— 6 A.M.
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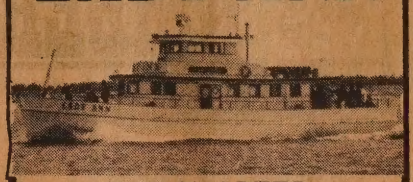

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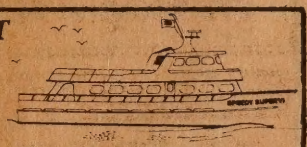

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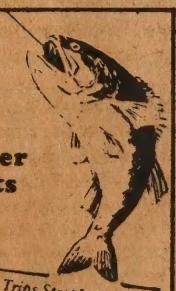

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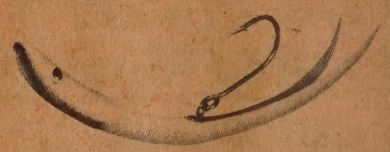

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Captain Tony Barbato of the **Big Mohawk II** reported plenty of whiting and 1 cod taken off the Ambrose Lightship on Saturday. Best area for the whiting is in 190 feet of water, and catches ranged up to 35 fish per man. All boats out of Sheepshead Bay are now concentrating on the whiting fishing.

Captain Sy Karlin of the **Blue Fin** informs us that he is having a new boat built at present which he will add to the present **Blue Fin**, forming what will be the **Blue Fin Fleet**. Sy says that there will be seating for 60 passengers, a large roomy cabin and that the boat will be a fast fiberglass job carrying 49 passengers offshore, and 60 in the bay. Power will be from twin diesels. This boat will handle Sy's night bluefishing trips and will also be available for moonlight sails. Being constructed in New Jersey the as yet un-named boat has an ETA of May '76 just in time for fluke and blues. The boat will have a planing hole, 2 heads, women's accomodations. This fast boat will be co-captained by Captain Billy Mieschberger, formerly of the **Captain Jack Fleet**. Full electronics are to be on board, and the boat is licensed to 100 miles.

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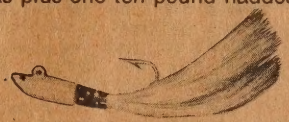
ARTICLE CORRECTION

In issue No. 5, directions for converting a 50 gallon drum to make a fish smoker recommended cutting off the top of the drum with a chisel or a cutting torch. As this can be very dangerous due to possible residual fumes, readers should be advised to fill the drum with water to prevent the possibility of a spark or flame igniting the fumes and exploding.

CONNECTICUT SCENE

The **Hel-Cat** had a large codfish charter out on Wednesday and fishing south of Block Island took some cod and 1 large pollack along with some big blacks plus one ten-pound haddock.



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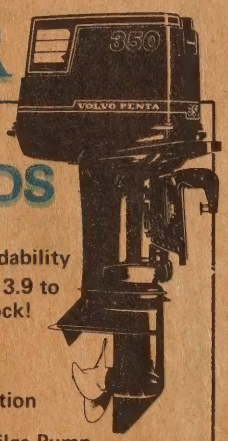

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HOT SPOTS

(Continued from page 18.)

August, I went there and all of a sudden, the inlet was bubbling with activity. Anglers were catching nice quantities of fluke, mostly on squid. The best spot seemed to be again, from the end of the jetty and casting diagonally to the southwest, to the ocean side. However, I did not participate much in this activity having caught so many fluke during previous summers while drifting in a boat at Moriches Bay. Nevertheless, it was the first time that I saw fish being caught there, and although many had to be returned because they were shorts, it certainly was a good area to catch fluke from shore.

During August I had switched from general bottom fishing to try for blues. At Shoreham, I had noticed as early as July, a few anglers cast bunker but going home skunked. As the snappers arrived here, I began to work with artificials and the thrill of catching 2-5 pound blues on these was unmistakable. Most of the time, I went home skunked but the times when I caught them made up for it. Here, too, I had to experiment because sometimes they hit metal or small poppers while other times, the only thing they hit was a leadhead bucktail. Around mid-August, the bunker-chunkers began to get hits as schools of these began to replace the snappers. The blues, now, were not snapper-blues but 10-12 lb. choppers. Consequently, I joined them as I noticed that artificials were beginning to fail. However, as summer merged into fall, most of us continued to strike out. Usually, 1-4 of these fish would be caught anywhere from dawn to 8 A.M. Considering that there were, now, about 30-50 anglers fishing for them, the odds were against all of us, i.e., unless a big run would occur. This had happened the previous year and everyone who knew this spot caught 10 pounders in 3 feet of water. It just didn't happen this season. Furthermore, many anglers at Shoreham favored the beach to the jetty and on some days, they did better. You can't be in two hot spots at once. Had I followed the textbook, I would have fished further to the east where a rip is evident near a small creek. An ideal spot. However, I never saw a bluefish caught here. I tried reasoning it out as well. At one point, I had heard about a school of blues caught from the Ferry Dock at Port Jefferson. The next week they were caught off Mt. Sinai. I figured, why chase them at those spots; it will be too late. The fish are clearly heading east and I'll be among the first to catch them at Shoreham. By the time those blues reached Shoreham, either they had broken up or moved offshore.

I tried fishing for blues at this time at Shinnecock and it was worse here. Most of the anglers here preferred artificials and I rarely saw a blue caught during this period. However, one day early in September, I noticed two anglers fishing the bottom for tautog. They had around 50 of these. I decided to give it a try and my average went up at Shinnecock. I fished for them through the fall here and only went home skunked once. One afternoon, I caught 20 of these blackfish between 1-5 pounds. Here, again, careful observation of those who were catching them helped me to increase my catch considerably. Not only did I pay attention to their rigs and bait but I also made a note of which spots on this jetty seemed to be most productive. Furthermore, I asked questions about anything that seemed doubtful to me, e.g., best tide or weather, water temperature, etc. Even then, I had to work for them and to prepare enough rigs that would inevitably be given up to the rocks. My schedule, consequently, was changed again so as to combine going for blues at dawn and dusk at Shoreham and blackfishing during the daytime at Shinnecock.

What does it all boil down to—a hot spot? Each of these areas had been productive at certain times and non-productive at other periods. The point is that it takes a great deal of work and persistence for the surfcaster to discover which place (or specific spot at a place) will produce best during a brief period. Although some of the information and experience will cut down on a lot of wasted time and effort, much of this may not be applicable next season.

For me, it was the discovery of a place's potential that I consider the gain, and not how many fish I caught. You would do best to work a few areas that you know have produced in the past and to observe any changes of patterns there. Don't hesitate to experiment, to talk to regulars and to observe their methods and the spots they select especially if you see them catching fish. You also have to sort out the "fish stories" from the information that is truly helpful. Don't expect to catch fish if you are trying a new place and you only have limited time to investigate. If this is the case, don't complain about the poor state of fishing either. Next season, go out and find a hot spot, or better yet, "create" your own.

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IGFA RECORDS
(Continued from page 10.)

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Three measurements of the fish must be taken. The girth at the widest portion of the body and the two lengths as shown in the diagram: X to X, and XX to XX. For billfish like marlin and swordfish, "XX" is measured from the tip of the bill.

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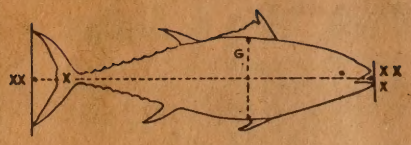

accompanied by 50 feet of the actual line used in making the catch. Line classes over 50-lb. require 80 feet of the actual line.

You'll need a camera to take the photographs required with the application. I suggest using a Polaroid so you will be certain the photos come out, rather than using film that must be processed later. Take a photo showing the full length of the fish, the rod and reel used to make the catch, and a shot of the scale used for the weigh-in. A photo of the angler with the fish is requested, but not mandatory. An additional photograph of the fish on the scale with the actual weight visible also helps to speed up the application. If the fish is taken on any type of artificial, a photo of the lure or plug with the hook(s) visible is required. Photos of the fish in both a hanging position and lying flat on its side must be taken. Do not hold the tip of a fin. Do not stand in front of the fish. Do not hold the fish in your hands. Take the clearest possible photos so that there can be no question about the species identification. Also send a photo to The Fisherman for publication.

Mail the completed application, required photos and line sample to the IGFA and keep your fingers crossed. If the claim is respected, you'll be a new IGFA World Record holder, an accomplishment that an angler can be proud of!

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

FISHING TRIP CONTEST

Mr. Eric Anderson of Deer Park called into LIF a description of his car by the Friday deadline to become this weeks LIF Litter Box Contest Winner. Mr. Anderson has been given a check for $30 and has also chosen a free fishing trip for two aboard the Captain Joseph Fleet out of Captree for his prize.

This Week's Winner:

895-BHO

THE BEACH BUGGY
(Continued from page 12.)

that the angler all but gives up walking. Subconsciously, he adopts an attitude of, "if I can't ride to it, I won't fish it"; thus placing limitations upon his areas of fishing activity. The beach buggy fisherman who is willing to investigate locations accessible on foot only, increases his fish catching potential. This is particularly true in areas where local laws or geographical features prohibit or severely restrict beach vehicle use, and where good fishing locations, accessible to walkers only, out number those open to the beach buggy. So to you beach buggy jockies, get off your rumps once in awhile and widen your horizons.

In the concluding installment we'll touch on the handling of the vehicle, beach courtesy, do's and don'ts and related miscellaneous points.

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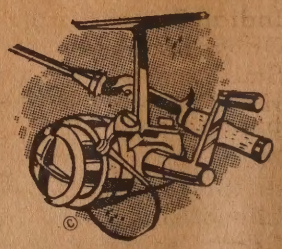

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TIDE TABLES

ON →	SANDY HOOK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT	
DAY	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
2/26 THURSDAY	5:07	5:37	6:46	7:18	9:16	9:46	8:32	9:02
2/27 FRIDAY	5:57	6:21	7:35	8:00	10:04	10:30	9:24	9:48
2/28 SATURDAY	6:40	7:02	8:16	8:39	10:49	11:10	10:09	10:30
2/29 SUNDAY	7:21	7:40	8:55	9:16	11:26	11:44	10:50	11:09
3/1 MONDAY	7:57	8:15	9:31	9:53	11:58	:	11:29	11:46
3/2 TUESDAY	8:33	8:51	10:08	10:27	12:12	12:16	:	12:05
3/3 WEDNESDAY	9:10	9:23	10:45	11:06	12:25	12:31	12:22	12:44
3/4 THURSDAY	9:44	9:59	11:23	11:44	12:44	12:58	12:58	1:21

SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Potunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Inlet & Dem. Pt.	−0 38
Coast Giard Sta.	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Loop Pkwy. Bridge	+0 25
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 00
Beach Ch. (Bridge)	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26
STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
MANASQUAN	−0 12

WILLETS POINT

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	−0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28

NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Connecticut River	+1 10
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	−0 14
Fort Pond Bay	−0 29
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point	−1 13

BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	−0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	−0 08
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and/or minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet —0 50" is listed under "on Sandy Hook". — 0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good territory, hunting good cover during these times if you wish to find the best sport that each has to offer. The tables are not a guarantee that you will catch fish or see game during the period, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter, and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration.

	A.M Minor	A.M Major	P.M. Minor	P.M. Major
2/26	1:35	8:10	2:05	8:35
2/27	2:30	8:55	2:50	9:15
2/28	3:05	9:35	3:30	9:55
2/29	3:45	10:15	4:10	10:35
3/1	4:25	11:00	4:50	11:25
3/2	5:10	11:45	5:40	:
3/3	5:55	12:15	6:20	12:30
3/4	6:45	12:55	7:05	1:15

PHASES OF THE MOON

3-30	3-9	3-16	3-22
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.

SUNRISE/SUNSET

2-5	7:10	5:19
2-10	7:04	5:25
2-15	6:58	5:32
2-20	6:51	5:38
2-25	6:43	5:44

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